

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the second full paragraph on page 18, which extends from line 13 to line 19, with the following replacement paragraph:

61 --Still addressing the structure of the table top, and the cooperation of the leaf elements with each other, each leaf element includes an edge end tab 60 or edge end slot 61 on respective ones of the side edges 50 adjacent each of the end edges 53 of the respective leaf element. Edge End tabs and edge end slots are not located at side edges 50 at the respective end edges of the table, whereby the side edges 50 at the respective end edges 46 of the table are typically free from all of tabs 52, slots 54, tabs 60, and slots 61.--

Kindly replace the third full paragraph on page 18, which extends from line 20 to line 30, with the following replacement paragraph:

62 --Adjacent leaf elements include cooperating ones of the edge end tabs and edge end slots such that each pair of leaf elements includes a tab-slot combination at each respective end edge 51. By employing the edge end tab-slot combination at the ends of respective leaf element interfaces, the leaf elements can be properly aligned with each other to form the generally continuous upper surface of the table top as the table top is assembled whereby the edge end tabs and slots provide an alignment function. By so fixing the relative positions of the leaf elements, and thereby combining the leaf elements to each other at the end edges, the edge end tab-slot combinations provide an additional venue for sharing, and thus transferring, loads across leaf element interfaces, thus using leaf elements,

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which do not directly receive the load, to bear and sustain a load applied to a given leaf element.--

Kindly add the following new paragraphs to the end of the SUMMARY section, which extends from page 4 to page 9 of the application-as-filed. Thus, please insert the following paragraphs at the end of page 9 of the application-as-filed.

--In other embodiments, the invention comprehends a table top comprising a plurality of leaf elements detachably connected to each other and arranged in side by side relationship with respect to each other to form a generally continuous upper surface of said table top. Each leaf element has a length, and respective first and second side edges, extending along the width of the table top, and a width, and respective third and fourth opposing end edges, extending along the length of the table top. Each leaf element further has, as connecting elements, at least one of a connector protuberance or a connector receptacle, disposed at an intermediate location on at least one of the first and second side edges. In addition, each leaf element further comprising at least two end protuberances and/or end receptacles disposed at the respective said side edges, adjacent the respective side end edges of the respective said leaf element. Further, the respective said side edges are substantially devoid of support structure, which is adapted to support an adjacent leaf element, between each pair of adjacent connecting elements.

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In other embodiments, the invention comprehends a table top comprising a plurality of leaf elements detachably connected to each other and arranged in side by side relationship with respect to each other to form a generally continuous upper surface of said table top. Each leaf element has a length, and respective first and second side edges, extending along the width of the table top, and a

width, and respective third and fourth opposing end edges, extending along the length of the table top. Each leaf element further has, as connecting elements, at least one of a connector protuberance or a connector receptacle, disposed at an intermediate location on at least one of the first and second side edges. In addition, each leaf element further comprising at least two end protuberances and/or end receptacles disposed at the respective said side edges, adjacent the respective side end edges of the respective said leaf element. Each of the end protuberances and/or end receptacles being separated from the respective opposing end edges by a distance D1 along the respective side edge. Also, each of the end protuberances and/or end receptacles is separated from the most proximate connector protuberance or connector receptacle by a distance D2 along the respective side edge. The magnitude of the distance D1 being substantially less than half the magnitude of the distance D2. Further, at least a portion of the length of the respective side edge, along the length of the leaf element, being devoid of support structure which is adapted to support an adjacent leaf element.

In yet other embodiments, the invention comprehends a table top comprising a plurality of leaf elements detachably connected to each other and arranged in side by side relationship with respect to each other to form a generally continuous upper surface of said table top. Each leaf element has a length, and respective first and second side edges, extending along the width of the table top, and a width, and respective third and fourth opposing end edges, extending along the length of the table top. Each leaf element further has, as connecting elements, at least one of a connector protuberance or a connector receptacle, disposed at an intermediate location on at least one of the first and second side edges. In addition, each leaf element

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further comprising at least two end protuberances and/or end receptacles disposed at the respective said side edges, adjacent the respective side end edges of the respective said leaf element. Each of the end protuberances and/or end receptacles being separated from the respective opposing end edges by a distance D1 along the respective side edge. Also, each end protuberance and/or receptacle is separated from a projected location P1 of an adjacent connector protuberance or connector receptacle by a distance D3. The projected location P1 being defined by the intersection of an imaginary line Ln1, which extends between the respective end protuberance and/or end receptacle at a respective said side edge, and an imaginary line Ln2 which extends from an adjacent said connector protuberance or connector receptacle through such imaginary line Ln1 at a perpendicular angle. The magnitude of the distance D1 being substantially less than half the magnitude of the distance D3.--

Kindly add the following new paragraph to the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS before the paragraph, which begins at page 11, line one of the application-as-filed.

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--FIGURE 8 is a top view of the table top, illustrating the distance relationships between protuberances, receptacles, and leaf element edges.--

Kindly add the following new paragraph to the DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS after the paragraph which extends from page 24 line 23 to line 28, and before the paragraph which extends from page 24 line 30 to page 25 line 2 of the application-as-filed.

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--Referring to FIGURE 8, the side edge 50 of each of leaf element 48 can define an end protuberance 78 and a

connector receptacle 84. The end protuberance 78 is separated from an end edge 53 by a distance D1. The connector receptacle 84 has a projected location P1. Projected location P1 is determined by the intersection of two imaginary lines. A first imaginary line Ln1 extends from the end protuberance 78, generally in the direction of the connector receptacle 84. A second imaginary line L2 extends from the connector receptacle 84, through imaginary line Ln1 at a perpendicular angle. The distance between projected location P1 and the end protuberance 78 is defined as D3. The magnitude of the distance D1 is substantially less than half the magnitude of D3.--

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